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(11) EP 0 940 787 A2

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
08.09.1999 Bulletin 1999/36

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: G08B 17/00, G08B 25/14

(21) Application number: 99111222.8

(22) Date of filing: 14.03.1994

(84) Designated Contracting States:
CH DE FR GB LI NL

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(30) Priority: 25.03.1993 JP 9093893
30.03.1993 JP 9709893

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(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
94103864.8 / 0 617 390

Remarks:

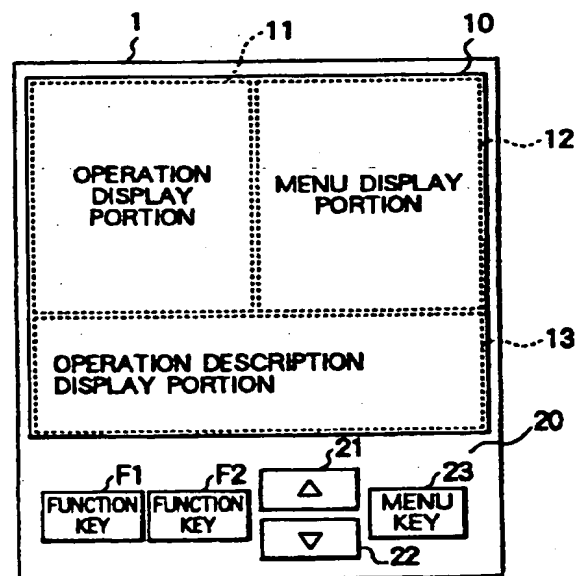
This application was filed on 09 - 06 - 1999 as a
divisional application to the application mentioned
under INID code 62.

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(54) Fire receiver

(57) A fire receiver including: a CPU, an operation
selection switch for selecting a desired operation from a
plurality of operations that can be executed; an address
selection switch for selecting a desired address from dif-
ferent addresses respectively given to a plurality of fire
detectors and lines; and display means connected to
the CPU and comprising an operation display portion, a
menue display portion, and an operation description
display portion.

FIG. 2



Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

[0001] This invention relates to a fire receiver that receives fire information from a fire detector to display a fire area and the like and to control devices, such as fire-block and smoke exhausting devices and fire extinguishing devices and the like, which are the subjects to be controlled, in accordance with fire information, according to the introductive portion of claim 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART:

[0002] When a fire test is manually performed to examine a fire detector or a line of a conventional fire receiver, the address of the fire detector or the line, which is the subject of the fire test, is supplied by using a ten key and an execution key is depressed after the address has been supplied to start executing the fire test.

[0003] That is, "1" is inputted by using a ten key to select "Test" shown on a menu screen of a display unit 1a as shown in Fig. 11A, and then an execution key is depressed. Then, "2" is inputted by using the ten key to select "Manual Fire Test" displayed on a test screen shown in Fig. 11B, and the execution key is depressed. Then, the address of the line intended to be tested is inputted through the screen of the manual fire test shown in Fig. 11C, and the execution key is depressed.

[0004] Since the thus-constituted conventional example is arranged in such a manner that the address of the line is inputted by using the ten key, the key operation must be performed by the times which are the same as the number of digits of the address, the keys to be depressed being usually different from one another. The operator must perform the key operation while looking the ten key whenever the operator inputs one of the digits of the address. Therefore, a problem is raised in that the key operation is too complicated, and another problem is raised in that a too long time takes to set the address. If an erroneous address is inputted, the address input operation must be again performed. What is worse, there arises another problem in that the re-input operation to be performed after the error has been made in the address inputting operation is too complicated. Although the foregoing conventional example is adapted to a case where the fire test is performed for each line, similar problems rise if the fire test is performed for each fire detector.

[0005] In the display unit 1a, "5. Guide List" is displayed on the lowermost line of the menu screen shown in Fig. 11A. When "5" corresponding to the guide list is inputted by using the ten key, a guide list screen shown in Fig. 11D is displayed, the guide list screen having "1. Terminal Control Guide", "2. Guide for Use If Trouble

Takes Place" and "3. Test Guide" displayed thereon. Among the foregoing guides, the number corresponding to the required guide is inputted by using the ten key. If the Guide for Use If Trouble Takes Place is selected, key "2" of the ten key is depressed. As a result, the specific contents of the Guide for Use If Trouble Takes Place are displayed as shown in Fig. 11E. By reading the contents of the guide, the description about the key operation and the like to be performed if a trouble takes place can be understood.

[0006] However, the description about the key operation can be displayed on the display unit 1a by depressing the ten key two times while looking the menu screen. Thus, the key operation is too complicated and the operation cannot be completed quickly. When a screen, such as a maintenance screen or an interlock stopping screen, except the menu screen is displayed, the guide for the description about the relative key operation can be displayed by performing switching to the menu screen and by depressing the ten key two times afterwards. Therefore, the foregoing operation is too complicated and the operation cannot be completed in a short time.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] An object of the present invention is to provide a fire receiver in which an operation for setting the address of a fire detector or a line, which must be subjected to a fire test, can easily be performed and the address setting operation can quickly be completed.

[0008] This object is achieved by the characterising features of claim 1.

[0009] According to the present invention, there is provided a fire receiver connected to devices in a fire alarm system, the fire receiver comprising: a CPU; operation switch means connected to the CPU; a transmitting/receiving circuit connected to the CPU and arranged to transmit/receive signals to and from the devices in the fire alarm system; and display means connected to the CPU, wherein the display means includes: an operation display portion for displaying the state of the operation performed by the fire alarm system; a menu display portion for displaying a plurality of menus of the contents of operations; and an operation description display portion for displaying the description of a switch operation about the contents of the operation of a menu of the plurality of the menus of the contents of the operations displayed in the menu display portion that has been selected by the operation switch means.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010]

Fig. 1 is a block diagram which illustrates a fire receiver according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a view which illustrates a display unit used in the first embodiment;

Figs. 3A to 3D are views which illustrate examples of displays made by the display unit shown in Fig. 2; Figs. 4A to 4L are views which illustrate examples of displays made by a display unit used in a second embodiment;

Fig. 5 is a block diagram which illustrates a fire receiver according to a third embodiment;

Fig. 6 is a flow chart of the operation of the third embodiment;

Fig. 7 is a flow chart of a modification of the third embodiment;

Fig. 8 is a block diagram which illustrates a fire receiver according to a fourth embodiment;

Fig. 9 is a flow chart of the operation of the fourth embodiment;

Fig. 10 is a flow chart of the operation of a modification of the fourth embodiment; and

Figs. 11A to 11E are views which illustrate examples of displays made by a display unit of a conventional fire receiver.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0011] Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings.

First Embodiment:

[0012] Referring to Fig. 1, a fire receiver R according to a first embodiment of the present invention comprises a display unit 1, a CPU (a microcomputer) 2 for controlling the total operation of the receiver R, a ROM 3 in which a program to be executed in accordance with a flow chart shown in Figs. 3 and 4 is stored, a RAM 4 for use as a working space and a transmitting/receiving circuit 5 for transmitting/receiving signals to and from a fire detector or the like through a line connected to the receiver R.

[0013] The CPU 2 has a counter function that continuously changes the address of the fire detector or the like when a key input has been made through an operation switch 20 of the display unit 1. The display unit 1 displays the address changed by the CPU 2. The CPU 2 commands to execute the fire test of the fire detector, the address of which is displayed on the display unit 1.

[0014] Fig. 2 is a view which illustrates a specific example of the display unit 1.

[0015] The display unit 1 comprises a display panel 10 and an operation switch 20.

[0016] The display panel 10 comprises an operation display portion 11 for displaying the operation of a fire alarm system, a menu display portion 12 for displaying menus and an operation description display portion 13 for displaying the description of the key operation about

the contents selected from the menu displayed on the menu display portion 12.

[0017] The operation switch 20 comprises an upward scroll key 21, a downward scroll key 22, a menu selection key 23, a first function key F1 and a second function key F2.

[0018] The upward scroll key 21 is a switch for upwards moving a cursor (having mark *) displayed in the left portion of the menu displayed in the menu display portion 12 of the display panel 10, while the downward scroll key 22 is a switch for downwards moving the cursor. When either of the scroll keys 21 or 22 is depressed once, the cursor is moved upwards or downwards by one step. In an operation for selecting the address, the upward scroll key 21 is a switch for increasing the value of the address, while the downward scroll key 22 is a switch for decreasing the value of the address.

[0019] The menu selection key 23 is a switch for selecting either "Menu" or "Menu End" displayed on the operation description display portion 13. The first function key F1 and the second function key F2 are switches for causing the operations indicated to correspond to the operation description display portion 13 to be executed.

[0020] The operation of the first embodiment will now be described.

[0021] In a normal supervisory state, a fact that a normal supervision is being performed is displayed as shown in Fig. 3A. When the menu key 23 is depressed, the fact that the normal supervision is being performed is displayed on the operation display portion 11, "Menu" is displayed in the menu display portion 12, and a description for urging a desired content to be selected from the menu by depressing the scroll keys 21 and 22 is displayed in the operation description display portion 13, as shown in Fig. 3B. When the downward scroll key 22 is depressed in this state, the fact that the normal supervision is being performed is displayed in the operation display portion 11 as shown in Fig. 3C. Moreover, the cursor (the cursor designated by mark *) in the menu display portion 12 is moved downwards by one step so that the cursor is displayed on the left side of "Fire Test" which is the first item in the menu shown in the menu display portion 12. Further, a description "Depress selection key, and screen for setting fire test is displayed" is displayed in the operation description display portion 13, and "Selection" is displayed on the first function key F1. Further, a description is displayed for urging the first function key F1 corresponding to the selection key to be depressed if the screen for setting the fire test is intended to be displayed.

[0022] When the first function key F1 is depressed in the foregoing state, a description is, as shown in Fig. 3D, displayed in the operation description display portion 13 that "Select address by using key Δ or key ∇, and depress execution key". Thus, "address = 001" is displayed in the operation description display portion 13 at

a position above the upward scroll key 21 (key Δ) and the downward scroll key 22 (key ∇), the address being the address of the fire detector. By changing the foregoing address, the address of the fire detector, which is intended to be subjected to the fire test, is selected. That is, the address of the fire detector is "001" when the change to the screen for setting the fire test has been made as shown in Fig. 3D. When the upward scroll key 21 is depressed in this state, the address is continuously increased from "001" (although the address is increased step by step in a microscopic observation, it is increased continuously for the eyes of a human being). When the downward scroll key 22 is depressed, the address is continuously decreased (although the address is decreased step by step in a microscopic observation, it is decreased continuously for the eyes of a human being).

Second Embodiment:

[0023] A fire receiver according to a second embodiment has an overall structure similar to that of the fire receiver according to the first embodiment shown in Fig. 1. However, seven operations can be performed in addition to the seven operations shown in the menu display portion 12 shown in Fig. 3B. The menu selection key 23 is a selection switch corresponding to "Menu 1", "Menu 2" and "Menu End" displayed in the operation description display portion 13.

[0024] The operation of the second embodiment will now be described with reference to Figs. 4A to 4L.

[0025] In a normal supervisory state, a fact that a normal supervision is being performed is displayed as shown in Fig. 3A. When the menu key 23 is depressed, the fact that the normal supervision is being performed is displayed on the operation display portion 11, "Menu 1", which is the first menu, is displayed in the menu display portion 12 and a description is displayed in the operation description display portion 13, and the description is displayed to urge a desired content to be selected from the Menu 1 by depressing the scroll keys 21 and 22 as shown in Fig. 4A. If the menu key 23 is depressed in this state, the fact that the normal supervision is being performed is displayed in the operation display portion 11, "Menu 2", which is the second menu, is displayed in the menu display portion 12, and a description is displayed in the operation description display portion 13 as shown in Fig. 7B, the description urging a desired content to be selected from the Menu 2 by depressing the scroll keys 21 and 22. When the menu key 23 is depressed in this state, the initial screen shown in Fig. 3A is again displayed.

[0026] Figs. 4C to 4H are views which illustrate examples of displays when operations "Indication of Trouble" and "Stop of Local Alarm" are selected from the Menu 1.

[0027] If the downward scroll key 22 is depressed once in a state shown in Fig. 4A, the cursor (a cursor designated with symbol *) shown in the menu display

portion 12 is moved downwards to be displayed on the left side of the "Indication of Trouble", description "Content of trouble is displayed if selection key is depressed" is displayed in the operation description display portion 13, and a description to urge the operator to depress the first function key F1 if the operator requires to look the content of the trouble is displayed as shown in Fig. 4C. If the first function key F1 is depressed in the foregoing state, the places that can be considered to have a trouble are displayed in the operation display portion 11 as shown in Fig. 4D. Among the places, the portion actually encountered the trouble is blinked, and a description is made that "Confirm the Content of Trouble" is displayed in the operation description display portion 13. When the menu key 13 corresponding completion is depressed, the state shown in Fig. 7C is restored.

[0028] If the downward scroll key 22 is depressed once in the state shown in Fig. 4C, the cursor (the cursor designated by mark *) in the menu display portion 12 is moved downwards by one step as shown in Fig. 4E so that the cursor is displayed on the left side of "Stop of Local Alarm", a description "Depress selection key, and screen for setting Stop of Local Alarm appears" is displayed in the operation description display portion 13, and description is made to urge the operator to depress the first function key F1 corresponding to the selection key if the operator intends to set Stop of Local Alarm. When the first function key F1 is depressed in the foregoing state, names of the areas, to which the local alarm can be given, are displayed in three stages composed of an upper stage, a middle stage and a lower stage so that a fact that the area displayed in the middle stage is the subject, the local alarm of which is stopped, is indicated (the name of the region is enclosed in a box), marks O and X are displayed on the left side of the foregoing stages so that mark O and mark X respectively represent alarm issue and stop, and description "Selected Local Alarm is stopped by using key Δ and key ∇ " is displayed, as shown in Fig. 4F. If the key F2 (the key corresponding to "Stop X" is depressed in the foregoing state, the local alarm of "Block B" displayed in the middle stage is stopped. If the first function key F1 (the key corresponding to "Alarm O") is depressed, the local alarm of "Block B" is given.

[0029] As described above, the operation description display portion 13 is disposed in addition to the operation display portion 11 and the menu display portion 12, the operation description display portion 13 being arranged to display the description about the operations of the indication of trouble or the stop of the local alarm during a period in which the indication of trouble or the stop of the local alarm is set. Therefore, the description about the keys of the operation switch 20 located immediately below the operation description display portion 13 can quickly be understood.

[0030] If a fire takes place during the foregoing operation, a fact that the fire has taken place and the place and the like are displayed regardless of the contents of

the operation. Therefore, a necessity of having a function of switching the contents to be displayed can be eliminated and a necessity for an operator to perform adequate switching can be eliminated.

[0031] Figs. 4F to 4H are views which illustrate the operation according to the foregoing embodiment for scrolling the names of areas, to which the local alarm can be given, in the display for stopping the local alarm.

[0032] That is, the names of areas, to which the local alarm can be given, are displayed in the three stages composed of the upper stage, the middle stage and the lower stage as shown in Fig. 4F. That is, the subject of setting the stop of the local alarm is displayed in the middle stage, and subjects located in front and in the rear of the subject are displayed above the subject and the below the same. Specifically, block A is displayed in the upper stage, block B is displayed in the middle stage and block C is displayed in the lower stage. If the area, the local alarm of which is intended to be stopped, is an area except block B and block A, the upward scroll key 21 is, as shown in Fig. 4G, depressed once to move upwards by one step, by scrolling, the name of the area, to which the local alarm can be given, to set block C as the subject, the local alarm of which is stopped. In a case where block D is set as the subject, the local alarm of which is stopped, the upward scroll key 21 is additionally depressed one time, the name of the area, to which the local alarm can be given, is moved upwards by one step by scrolling as shown in Fig. 4H. In a case where a block disposed in front of block D (block C, B or A or the like) is set as the subject of the area, to which the local alarm can be given, the downward scroll key 22 is required to be depressed on the contrary.

[0033] Since the subjects located in front and in the rear of the displayed subject, the local alarm of which is stopped, are displayed above and below the subject as described above, the horizontal positional relationship of the subjects of setting can easily be understood. Therefore, setting can conveniently be performed.

[0034] The foregoing embodiment is arranged in such a manner that the names of the regions, to which the local alarm can be given, are displayed in the upper, middle and the lower stages, the subject of setting the stop of the local alarm is displayed in the middle stage and the subjects located in front and in the rear of the subject of setting are displayed above and below the subject. As an alternative to the foregoing arrangement, another arrangement may be employed in which the names of the areas, to which the local alarm can be given, are displayed on three rows composed of right, middle and left rows, the subject of setting the stop of the local alarm is displayed on the middle row and the subjects located in front and in the rear of the subject are displayed on the two sides of the subject.

[0035] In a case where five subjects, such as the names, the area to which the local alarm can be given, are present and the subjects to be displayed for five stages are actually displayed for three stages, the first,

second and the third subjects are first displayed. If the upward scroll key 21 is depressed in this state, an empty stage, the first subject and the second subject are displayed so that the operator is able to recognize that the first subject is the leading subject.

[0036] When the downward scroll key 22 is depressed once, the first, second and the third subjects are displayed and the initial state is restored. When the downward scroll key 22 is additionally depressed one time, the second, third and the fourth subjects are displayed. When the downward scroll key 22 is additionally depressed two times in the foregoing state, the fourth subject, the fifth subject and an empty stage are displayed. Therefore, the operator is able to recognize that the fifth subject is the final subject.

[0037] That is, the arrangement made in such a manner that the empty stage is displayed in front of the first subject to be displayed and in the rear of the final stage will enable the first subject stage and the final subject stage to be recognized for the operator. Although the foregoing embodiment is arranged in such a way that the middle stage of the displayed three stages displays the subject of setting and the subject is enclosed in a box, the box may be positioned on another stage. The box may be made movable freely to move the position of the subject of setting. Furthermore, the number of stages capable of displaying the subjects may be determined to be an arbitrary number.

[0038] If the subjects are displayed on a plurality of lines, a similar arrangement may be employed in which the empty line is displayed in front of the first subject to be displayed and in the rear of the final subject. Also in this case, the first and the final lines can be recognized by the operator. Although the middle line of the three lines indicates the subject of setting and the middle line is enclosed in a box, the box may be located on another line. The box may be made movable freely to move the position of the subject of setting. Furthermore, the number of lines capable of displaying the subjects may be determined to be an arbitrary number.

[0039] As an alternative to the box for indicating the subject of setting, white and black inversion display or blinking display or another display may be employed.

[0040] Figs. 4I to 4L are views which illustrate examples of displays realized when an operation "Interlocking Stopping" or "Retransmission Stopping" is selected from the Menu 1 shown in Fig. 4E.

[0041] When the downward scroll key 22 is depressed once in a state shown in Fig. 4E, the cursor (the cursor designated by mark *) in the menu display portion 12 is moved downwards by one step to be displayed on the left side of "Interlocking Stopping", a description "Depress selection key, and screen for setting Interlocking Stopping is realized" is displayed in the operation description display portion 13, and a description is displayed which urges the operator to depress the first function key F1 corresponding to the selection key if the operator intends to see the screen for setting the Inter-

locking Stopping as shown in Fig. 7I. When the first function key F1 is depressed in the foregoing state, terminals (subjects) that can be interlocked are displayed on the upper, middle and the lower stages in the operation description display portion 13, a fact that the middle terminal is the subject of the interlocking stopping is displayed (the name of the terminal is enclosed in a box), marks O and X are displayed on the left side of each stage to represent such that mark O and mark X respectively mean interlocking and stopping, a description "Selected interlocking is stopped with key Δ and key ∇ " is displayed, as shown in Fig. 4J. When the second function key F2 (the key corresponding to "Stopping X") is depressed, "Damper" displayed in the middle stage is stopped. When the first function key F1 (the key corresponding to "Interlocking O") is depressed, "Damper" displayed in the middle stage is interlocked. By displaying the subject of setting with a term such as the name, for example, "Damper", or the place, the subject of setting can easily be selected. Therefore, an error in setting can be prevented.

[0042] If the downward scroll key 22 is depressed once in the state shown in Fig. 4I, the cursor (the cursor designated with mark *) in the menu display portion 12 is moved downwards by one step to be displayed on the left side of "Retransmission Stopping", a description is, in the operation description display portion 13, made that "Depress selection key, and screen for setting Retransmission Stopping is realized", and a description is displayed to urge the operator to depress the first function key F1 corresponding to the selection key if the operator intends to see the screen for setting Retransmission Stopping, as shown in Fig. 4K. When the first function key F1 is depressed in the foregoing state, the subjects, which can be retransmitted to the operation description display portion 13, are displayed in the upper, middle and the lower stages, a fact that the subject displayed on the middle stage is the subject of the retransmission stopping is indicated (the name of the subject is enclosed in a box), marks O and X are displayed on the left side of the stages to mean such that mark O and mark X respectively mean the retransmission and the stopping, and a description is displayed that "Selected retransmission is stopped with key Δ and key ∇ ", as shown in Fig. 4L. When the second function key F2 (the key corresponding to "Stopping X") is depressed in the foregoing state, display of the "Fire-Block and Smoke Exhausting" on the middle stage is stopped. If the first function key F1 (the key corresponding to "Retransmission O") is depressed, the "Fire-Block and Smoke Exhausting" displayed on the middle stage is retransmitted.

[0043] As described above, the operation description display portion 13 is disposed in addition to the operation display portion 11 and the menu display portion 12, the operation description display portion 13 being arranged to display the description about the operations of the interlocking stopping and retransmission stopping

during a period in which the interlocking stopping or the retransmission stopping is set. Therefore, the description about the key operation can quickly be understood.

[0044] Since the descriptions of the operations about the start of fire-block and smoke exhausting, restoration of the fire-block and smoke exhausting and suspension of storage are made in the operation description display portion 13 in addition to the foregoing operations, the description about the key operation or the like can quickly be understood during the setting operation. Further, the descriptions of the operations of the fire test, an automatic test, a sub-power source test, stopping of a trouble device, automatic restoration, time setting and data printing are displayed in the operation description display portion 13 during the setting operation. Therefore, the description about the key operation or the like can quickly be understood.

[0045] Although foregoing embodiment is arranged in such a manner that the cursor marked * in the menu display portion 12 is moved downwards when the downward scroll key 22 is depressed to display the cursor on the left side of the "Indication of Trouble" or "Stop of Local Alarm", another arrangement may be employed in that the display of "Indication of Trouble" or "Stop of Local Alarm" is inverted between white and black in place of using the foregoing cursor. The necessity lies in that the selected item can be recognized.

[0046] The operation description display portion 13 may be arranged in such a manner that the subject of setting of at least one operation among the stop of the local alarm, the interlock stopping, the retransmission stopping, the fire-block and smoke exhausting and the restoration of fire-block and smoke exhausting is displayed.

[0047] According to the first and second embodiments, the operation description display portion for displaying the description of the key operation about the contents selected from the menu displayed on the menu display portion is disposed in addition to the operation display portion for displaying the operation of the fire alarm system and the menu display portion for displaying the menu. an effect can be obtained in that the description of the key operation and the like can quickly be understood.

Third Embodiment:

[0048] Fig. 5 illustrates a fire receiver according to a third embodiment. The fire receiver according to this embodiment has a structure that the fire receiver according to the first embodiment shown in Fig. 1 is arranged in such a manner that a liquid crystal panel 31 is employed as the display panel 10 and a backlight 32 for irradiating the liquid crystal 31 is disposed. The ROM 3 stores a program to be executed in accordance with a flow chart shown in Fig. 6.

[0049] First, initialization is performed (step S41), the timer is caused to overflow, that is, deactivated by the

CPU 2 (step S42), the timer being formed into, for example, a counter in the RAM 4 and arranged to start at 0 and allowed to overflow after a predetermined time (for example, 5 minutes) has passed. If no input has been made through the operation switch 20 (step S43) and the time has overflowed (step S44), a discrimination is made whether or not the fire signal is present (step S45). If no fire signal is present, the backlight 32 is lit off (step S46). In this case, display signals are supplied to the liquid crystal panel 31 to display "Normal Supervision is Being Performed", the date and the time (step S47). If a discrimination has been made that a fire signal is present (step S45), the backlight 32 is lit on (step S51) and a fact that a fire has taken place, the date and the time are displayed on the liquid crystal panel 31 (step S52). Although only the discrimination is made in the foregoing step S45 whether or not the fire signal is present, discriminations may be made whether or not all signals, such as a trouble signal, relating to the contents to be displayed on the liquid crystal panel 31 are present.

[0050] Since the liquid crystal panel 31 is used in the display unit 1 and the predetermined contents are displayed on the liquid crystal panel 31 during the fire supervision though the backlight 32 is lit off as described above, the display can be visually recognized by the supervising stuff even if the brightness level is unsatisfactory. Therefore, the supervising stuff can be freed from uneasiness whether or not the display can be made normally if a fire takes place. Since the backlight 32 is lit off during the fire supervision, the continuous use of the backlight 32 is prevented. Therefore, deterioration in the performance of the backlight 32 can significantly be prevented. As a result, the brightness of the display portion is raised if the fire has taken place so that the start of a fire can clearly be displayed. Since the start of the fire can be impressed upon the supervising stuff, the start of the fire can quickly be recognized.

[0051] If the key input has been made by operating the switch 20 (step S43), the timer is reset and started (step S61). The backlight 32 is lit on for a time (for example, 5 minutes) until the timer overflows (step S62). Thus, required items (for example, the addresses of the fire detectors required to perform a fire test and the result of the fire test if the fire test is being performed) corresponding to the contents of the input through the keys or required items, such as the start of a fire, the date and the time, are, if the fire signal has been received, displayed on the liquid crystal panel 31 (step S63). If key input is, in this state, again performed within a predetermined time from a moment one of the switches 20 has been depressed, the timer is again reset and started. That is, when the switch 20 is again depressed, the backlight 32 is lit on for 5 minutes from the foregoing moment.

[0052] In step S47, only "Normal Supervision is Being Performed" may be displayed on the liquid crystal panel 31 or only the date and the time may be displayed or the

other display may be made. In step S52, the displays of the date and the time may be omitted.

[0053] Fig. 7 is a flow chart which illustrates another operation of the CPU 2 according to the third embodiment.

[0054] The operation is basically the same as the operation shown in Fig. 6 except an arrangement made in such a manner that, if a discrimination has been made that a fire signal is present (step S45), the backlight 32 is flashed on and off in place of lighting on the same (step S53) and the start of a fire, the date and the time are displayed on the liquid crystal panel 31 (step S54). As a result of the flashing on and off, the fact that a fire has been started can be impressed on the supervising stuff. If the supervising stuff has made an input by using the switch 20, the flashing of the backlight 32 is completed and the backlight 32 is turned on (step S62).

Fourth Embodiment:

[0055] Fig. 8 is a block diagram which illustrates a fire receiver according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0056] The fourth embodiment employs a CRT (a Cathode Ray Tube) 41 as the display unit 1, the CRT 41 being supplied with the display signal 42 and a heater electric current 43. The ROM 3 stores a program to be executed in accordance with a flow chart shown in Fig. 9.

[0057] First, initialization is performed (step S71) and the timer is caused to overflow, that is, turned off by the CPU 2 (step S72). The timer is formed into, for example, a counter in the RAM 4, the timer being started at zero and allowed to overflow after a predetermined time (for example, 5 minutes) has passed. If no input through the operation switch 20 is made (step S73) and the timer has been allowed to overflow, that is, turned off (step S74), a discrimination is made whether or not a fire signal is present (step S75). If no fire signal is present, the level of the signal for displaying the CRT 41 is lowered (step S76). In this case, display signals are supplied to the CRT 41 to display "Normal Supervision is Being Performed", the date and the time (step S77). If the fire signal is present (step S75), the level of the display signal to be supplied to the CRT 41 is raised to realize a normal state (step S81) and the start of a fire, the date and the time are displayed on the CRT 41 (step S82). Although only the discrimination is made in step S75 whether or not the fire signal is present, the discrimination may be made whether or not all signals, such as the trouble signal, relating to the contents to be displayed on the CRT 41 are present.

[0058] Since the CRT 41 is employed in the display unit 1 and the predetermined contents are displayed on the CRT 41 during the supervision of fire though the brightness is low as described above, the display can be visually recognized by the supervising stuff. Therefore, the supervising stuff can be freed from uneasiness

whether or not the display can be normally performed if a fire has started. Since the level of the display signal on the CRT 41 is low, the possibility of burning of the screen or discoloration of the light emitting substance can be restricted. Further, the possibility of occurrence of lowering in the brightness can be lowered if the levels of the display signals are the same. As a result, the brightness of the display portion can be raised if a fire has been started so that the start of the fire can clearly be displayed. Therefore, the start of the fire can be impressed on the supervising stuff so that the supervising stuff is able to quickly and visually recognize the start of the fire.

[0059] If a key input has been made by operating the switch 20 (step S73), the timer is reset and started (step S91) and the level of the display signal of the CRT 41 is raised for a time (for example, 5 minutes) until the timer is allowed to overflow (step S92). Thus, required items (for example, the addresses of the fire detectors required to perform a fire test and the result of the fire test if the fire test is being performed) corresponding to the contents of the input through the keys or required items, such as the start of a fire, the date and the time, are, if the fire signal has been received, displayed on the CRT 41 (step S93). If key input is, in this state, again performed within a predetermined time from a moment one of the switches 20 has been depressed, the timer is again reset and started. That is, when the switch 20 is again depressed, the CRT 41 is lit on for 5 minutes from the foregoing moment at a high brightness.

[0060] Fig. 10 is a flow chart which illustrates another operation of the CPU 2.

[0061] The operation is basically the same as the operation shown in Fig. 9 except that: if a discrimination has been made that a fire signal is present (step S75), the CRT 41 is not continuously displayed at high brightness but the CRT 41 is repeatedly displayed at a high brightness and a low brightness (step S83). At this time, the start of a fire, the date and the time are displayed on the CRT 41 (step S84). By the repetition of the high brightness and low brightness, the start of a fire can be impressed on the supervising stuff. If the supervising stuff has an input by using the switch 20 in the foregoing state, the repetition of the high brightness and the low brightness is completed and an operation of the continuous displaying at the high brightness is started (step S92). In step S83, another arrangement may be, in place of raising or lowering the level of the display signal, employed in which a state where the level of the display signal is high and a state where the level of the same is zero are repeated and thus the display is completely flashed on and off.

[0062] If the arrangements of the embodiments 3 and 4 that the backlight 32 is lit off after a predetermined time has passed if no key input is made and that lowering of the brightness of the CRT 41 starts arise a problem, a maintaining means for causing the continuous lighting to be performed or continuing the high bright

display may be disposed. On the contrary, a means for lighting off the backlight 32 or a means for lowering the brightness of the CRT 41 after the operation has been completed may be disposed.

[0063] Although the third and fourth embodiments have been described in a state where the fire signal is received as an example of fire information, the brightness of the liquid crystal panel 31 or the CRT 41 may be raised when the system has received a previous fire signal or fire information such as a physical quantity of a fire phenomenon such as heat, smoke or gas which can be discriminated to be a fire or a previous fire.

[0064] According to the third and fourth embodiments, the supervising stuff can be freed from uneasiness whether or not the display can be performed normally at the time of the start of a fire even if the liquid crystal panel 31 or the CRT 41 is used as the display unit 1. If a fire has been started, the brightness of the display portion is raised so that the start of the fire can be displayed clearly. Since the start of the fire can be impressed on the supervising stuff, an effect can be obtained in that the start of a fire can quickly and visually be recognized.

Claims

1. A fire receiver connected to devices in a fire alarm system, said fire receiver comprising:

a CPU;
operation switch means connected to said CPU;
a transmitting/receiving circuit connected to said CPU and arranged to transmit/receive signals to and from said devices in said fire alarm system; and
display means connected to said CPU,
said display means including:
an operation display portion for displaying the state of the operation performed by said fire alarm system;
a menu display portion for displaying a plurality of menus of the contents of operations; and
an operation description display portion for displaying the description of a switch operation about the contents of the operation of a menu of said plurality of said menus of the contents of the operations displayed in said menu display portion that has been selected by said operation switch means.

2. A fire receiver according to claim 1 wherein said operation description display portion displays information denoting a subject device, at least one operation of which is set from among stop of local alarm, interlock stopping, retransmission stopping, start of fire-block and smoke exhausting and restoration of fire-block and smoke exhausting.

3. A fire receiver according to claim 1 wherein said operation description display portion displays information denoting the devices disposed in front and in the rear of said displayed subject device, said information being displayed on the two sides of the information of said displayed subject device. 5
4. A fire receiver according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said operation description display portion displays said subject device by means of terms. 10
5. A fire receiver according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said CPU causes said display means to display a predetermined content at a low brightness if said fire alarm system is supervising a fire and causes said display means to display a predetermined content at a high brightness if fire information has been supplied from said devices in said fire alarm system through said transmitting/receiving circuit. 15 20
6. A fire receiver according to claim 5 wherein said display means includes a liquid crystal panel.
7. A fire receiver according to claim 6 wherein said display means includes a backlight for irradiating said liquid crystal panel. 25
8. A fire receiver according to claim 7 wherein said CPU lowers the brightness of display performed by said liquid crystal panel by lighting off said backlight and raises the brightness of display performed by said liquid crystal panel by lighting on said backlight. 30 35
9. A fire receiver according to claim 8 wherein said CPU flashes on and off said backlight when said CPU has received fire information from said device in said fire alarm system through said transmitting/receiving circuit and continuously lights on said back light when said operation switch means has been operated in a predetermined manner. 40
10. A fire receiver according to claim 5 wherein said display means includes a CRT. 45
11. A fire receiver according to claim 10 wherein said CPU continuously raises or lowers the brightness of said CRT when said CPU has received fire information from the device in said fire alarm system through said transmitting/receiving circuit and causes said CRT to perform a display when said operation switch means has been operated in a predetermined manner. 50 55

FIG. 1

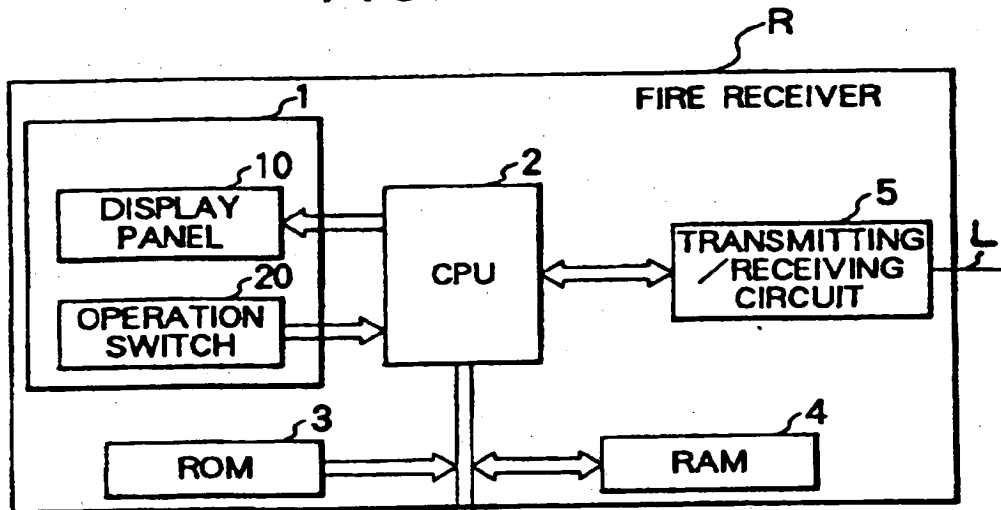


FIG. 2

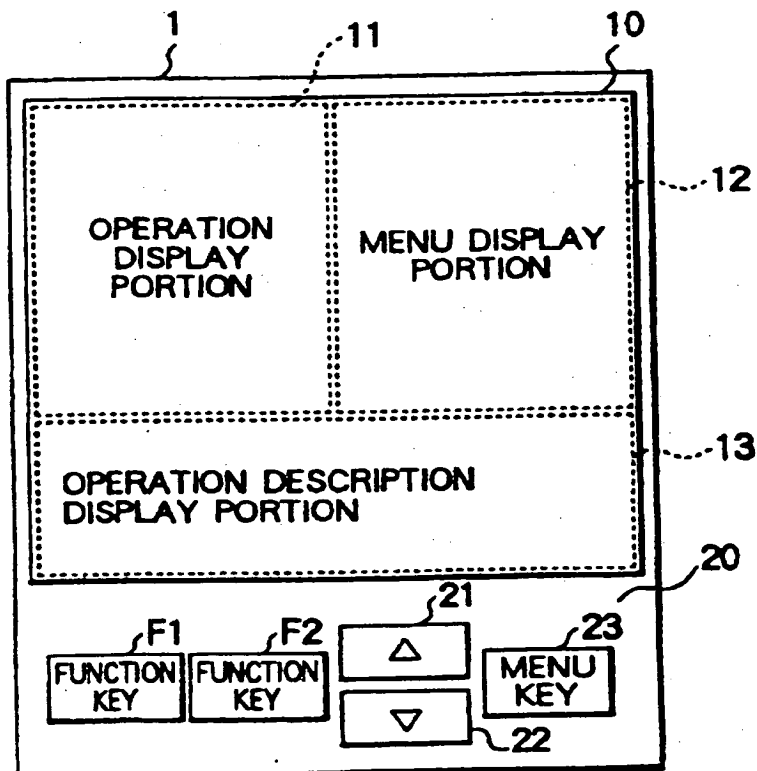


FIG. 3 A

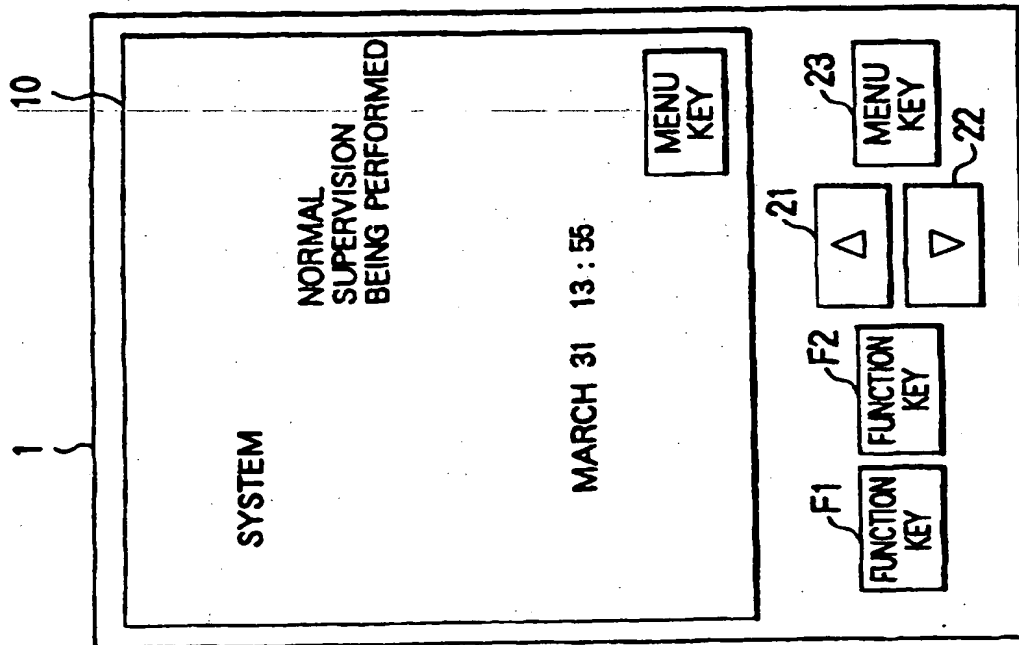


FIG. 3 B

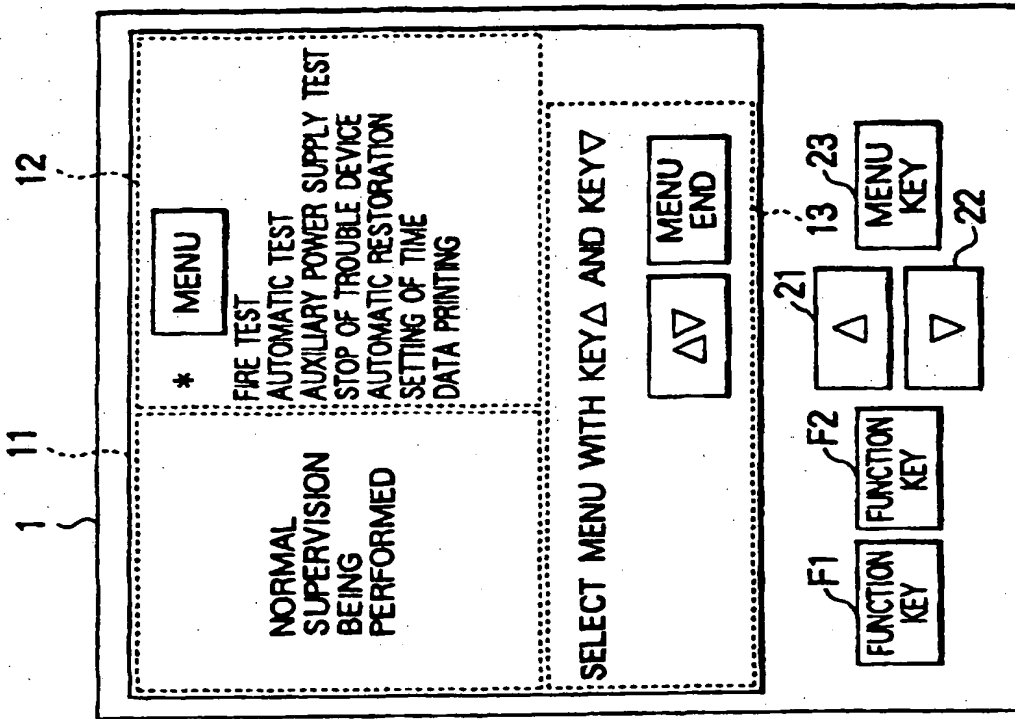


FIG. 3 D

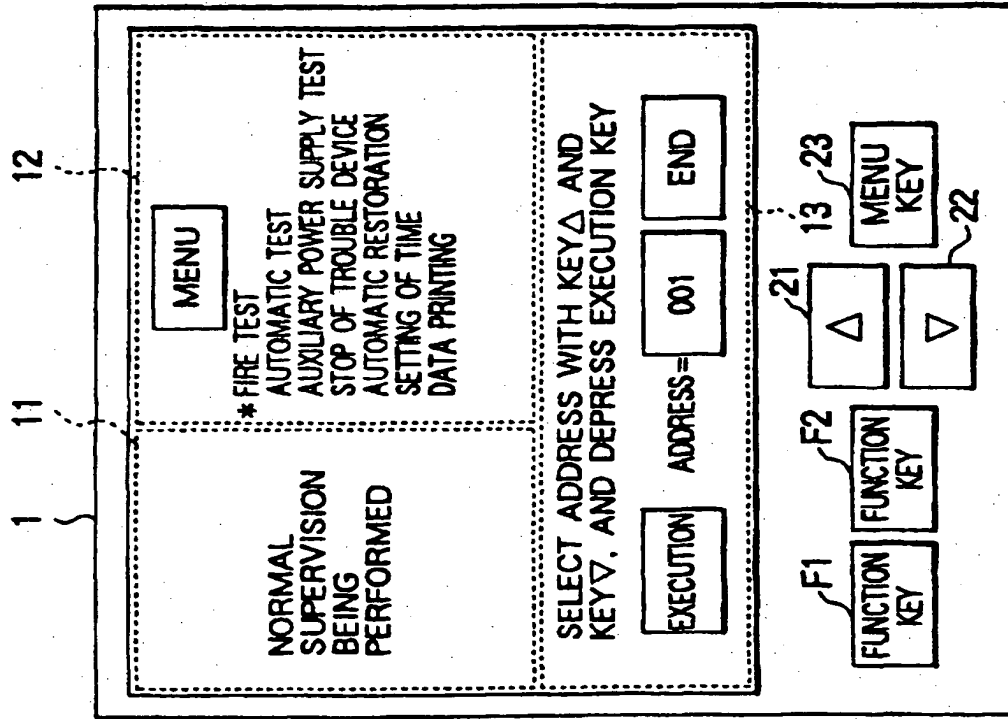


FIG. 3 C

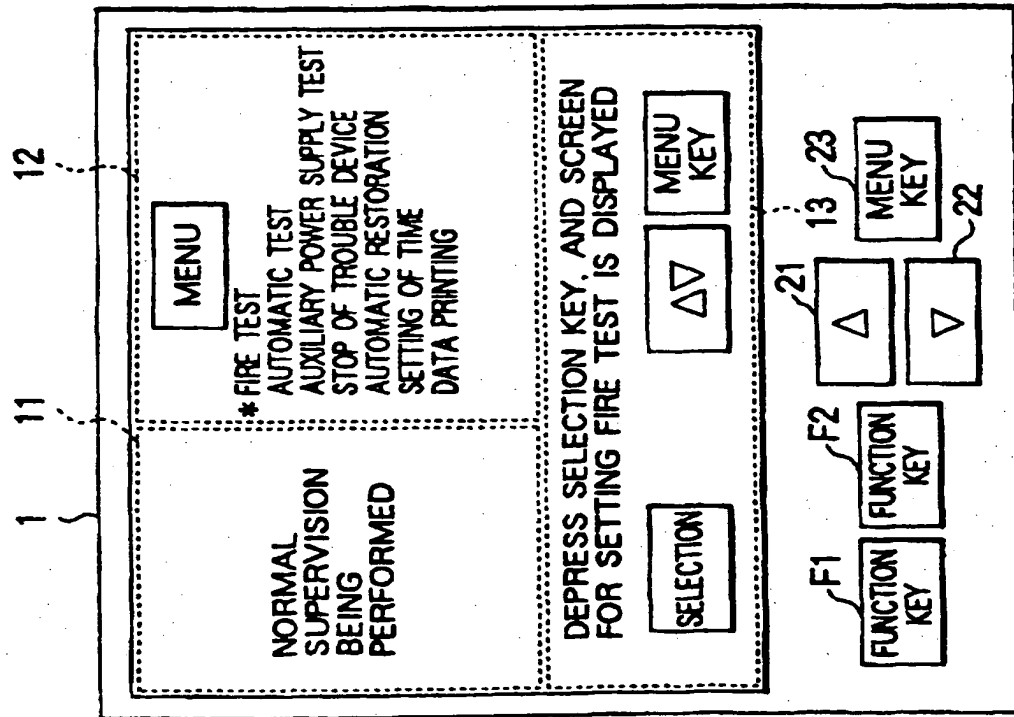


FIG. 4 B

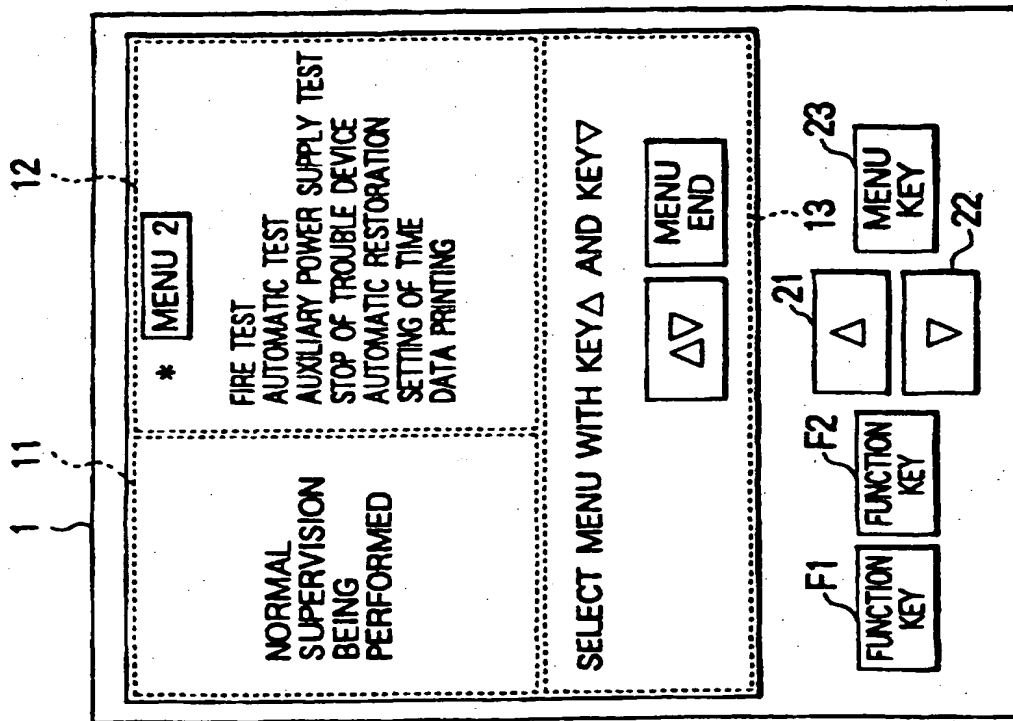


FIG. 4 A

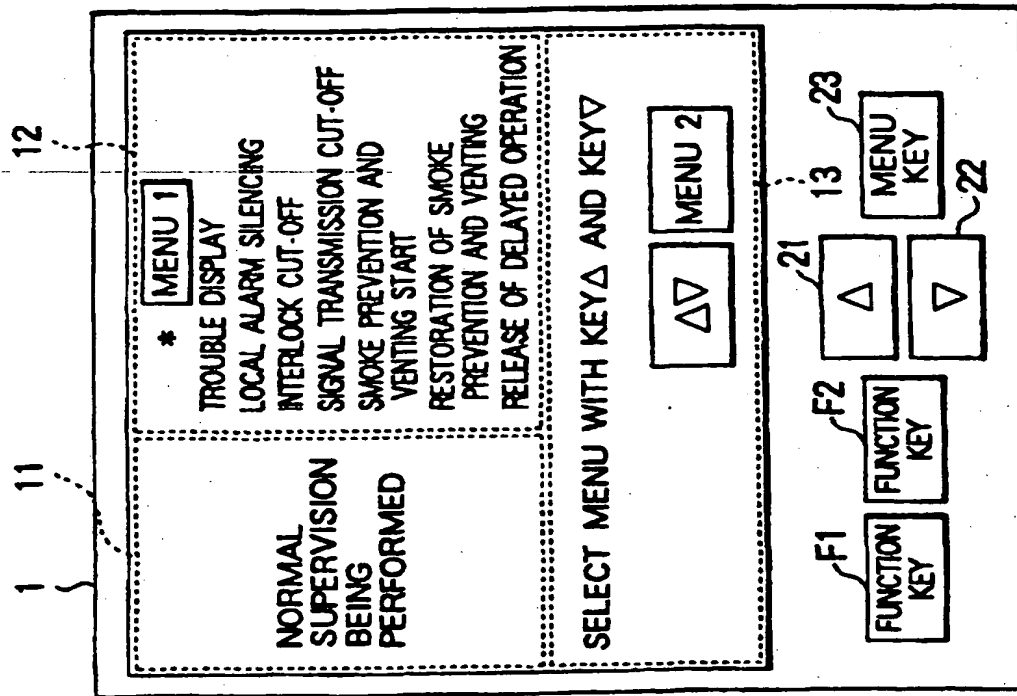


FIG. 4 C

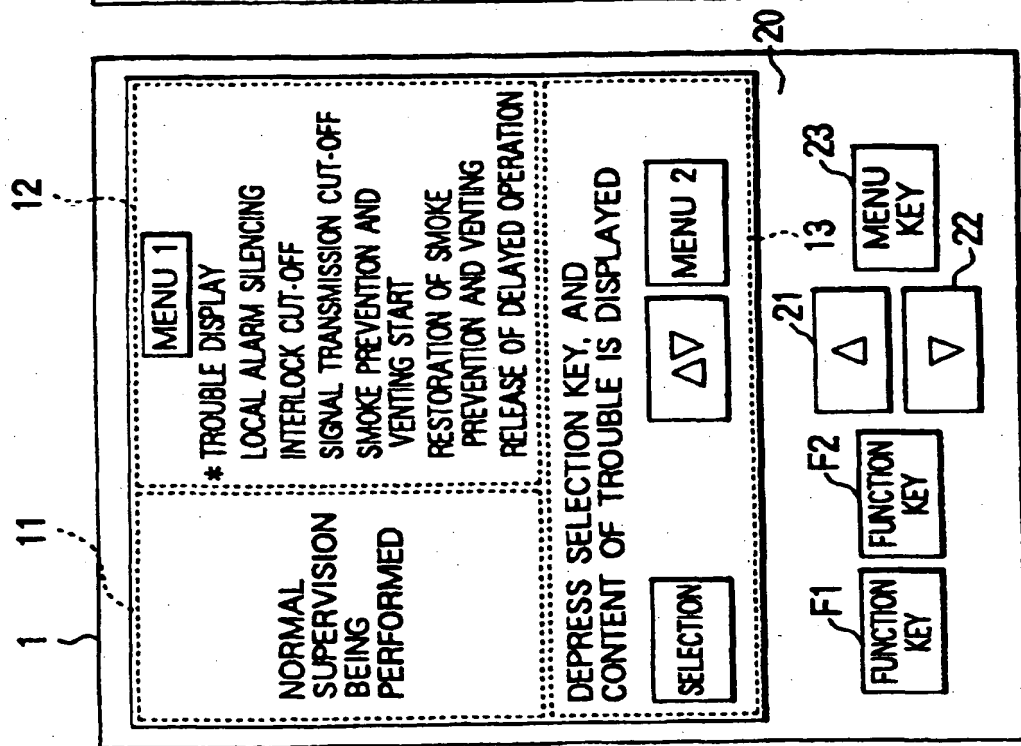


FIG. 4 D

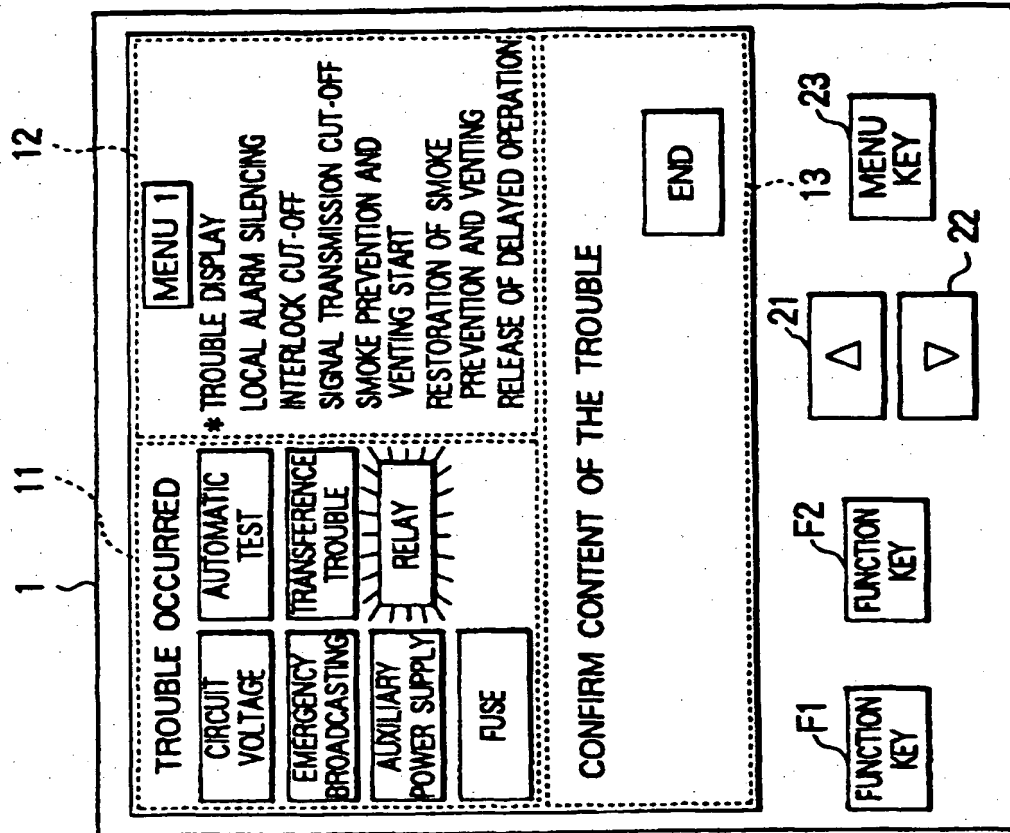


FIG. 4 E

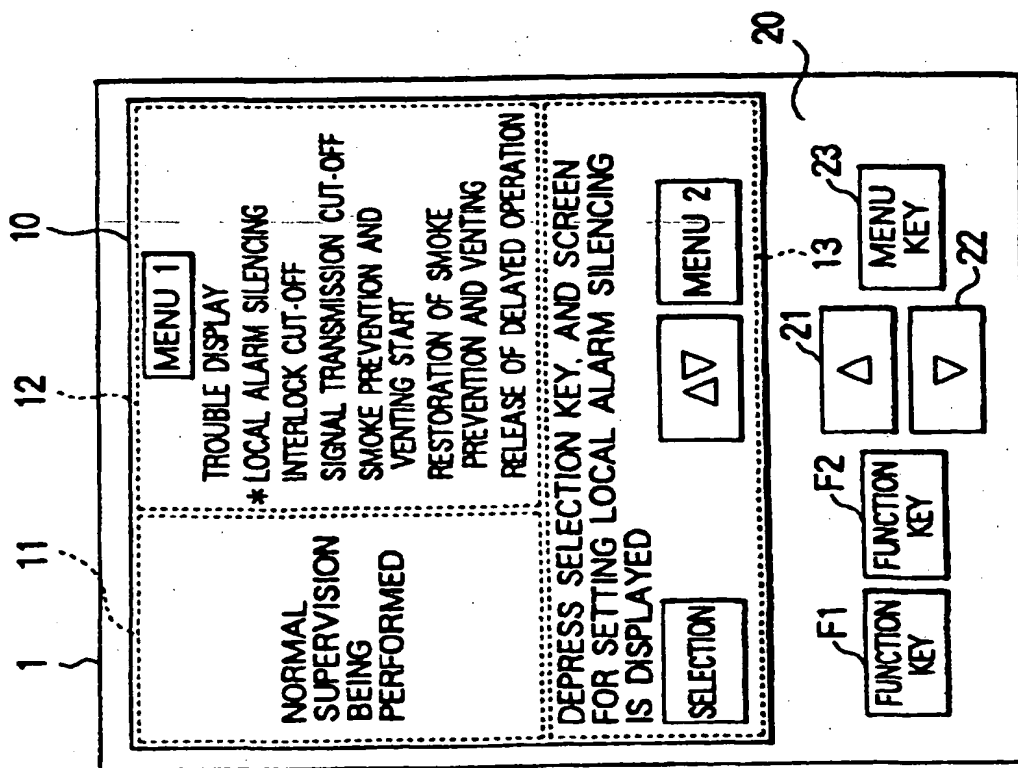


FIG. 4 F

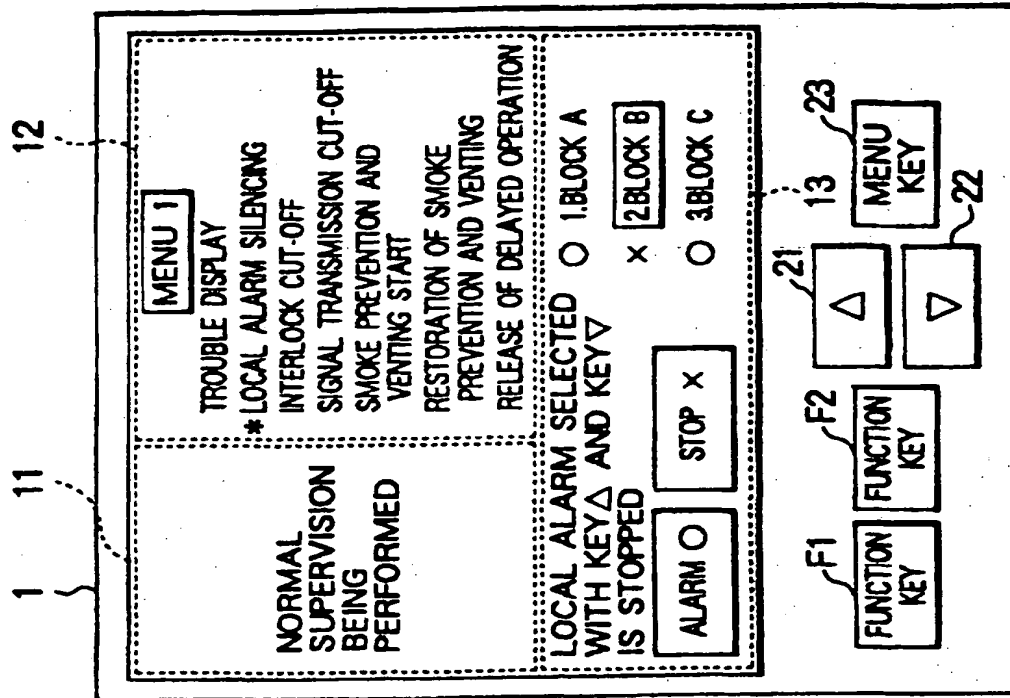


FIG. 4 G

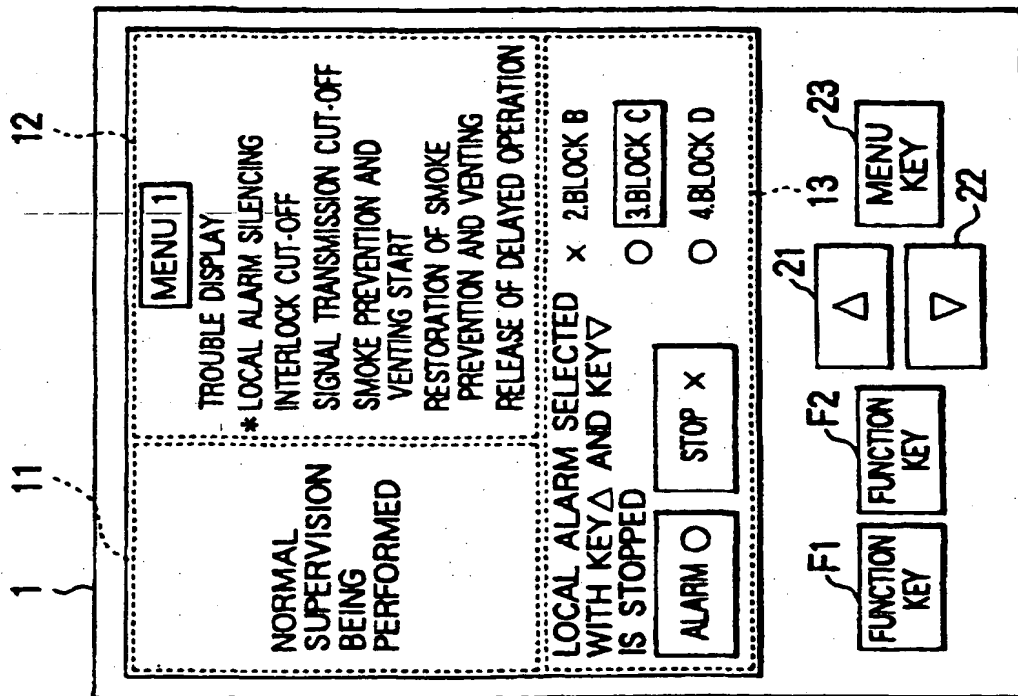


FIG. 4 H

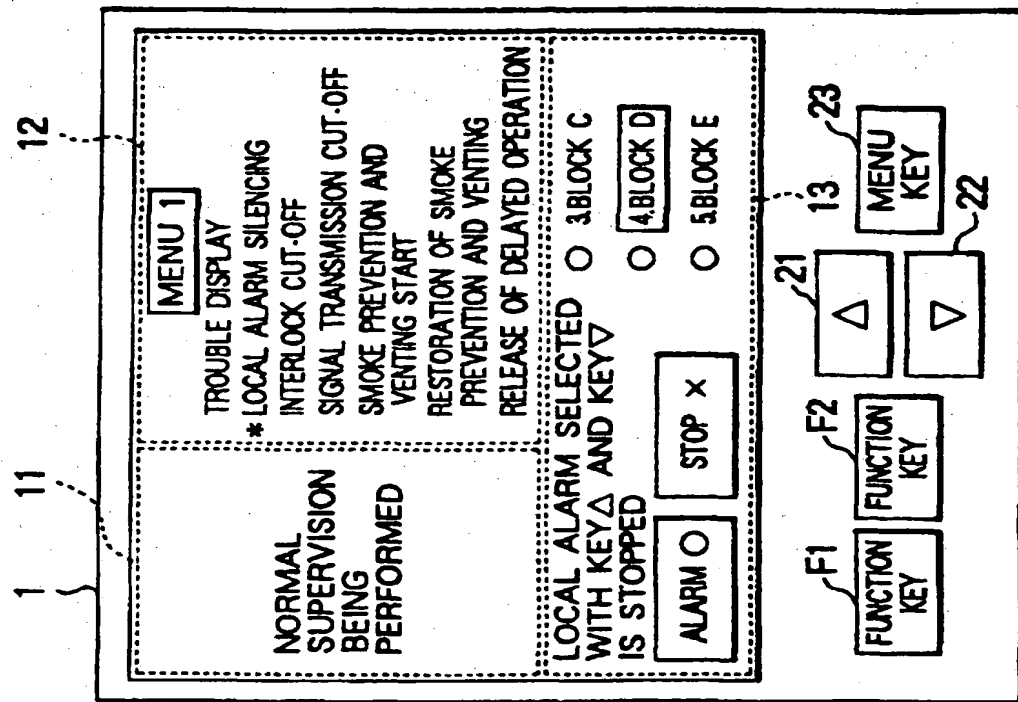


FIG. 4 J

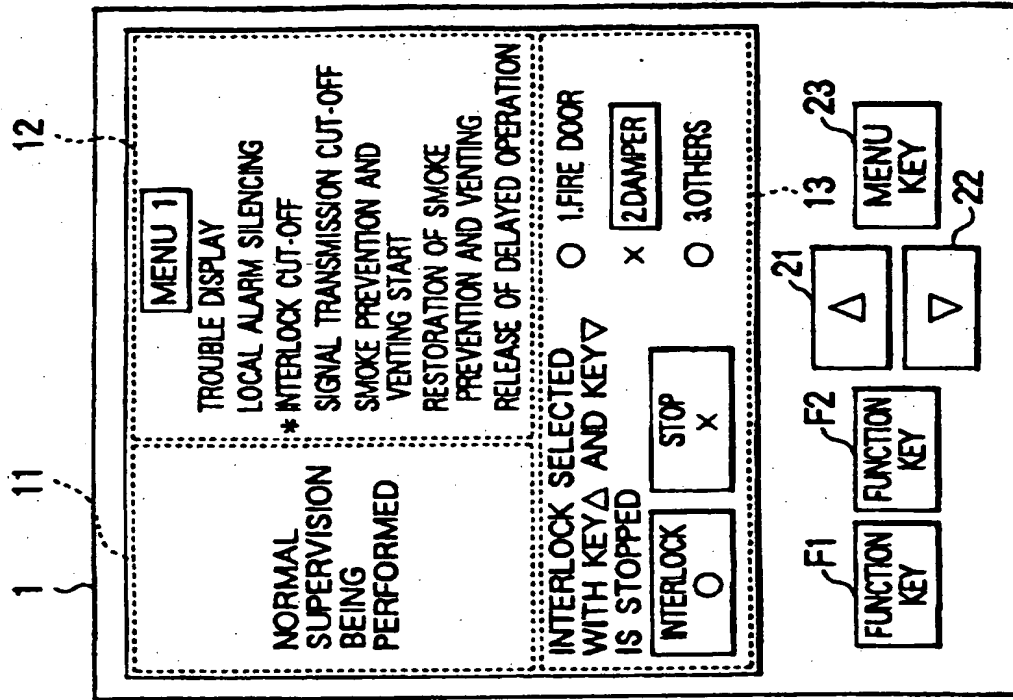


FIG. 4 I

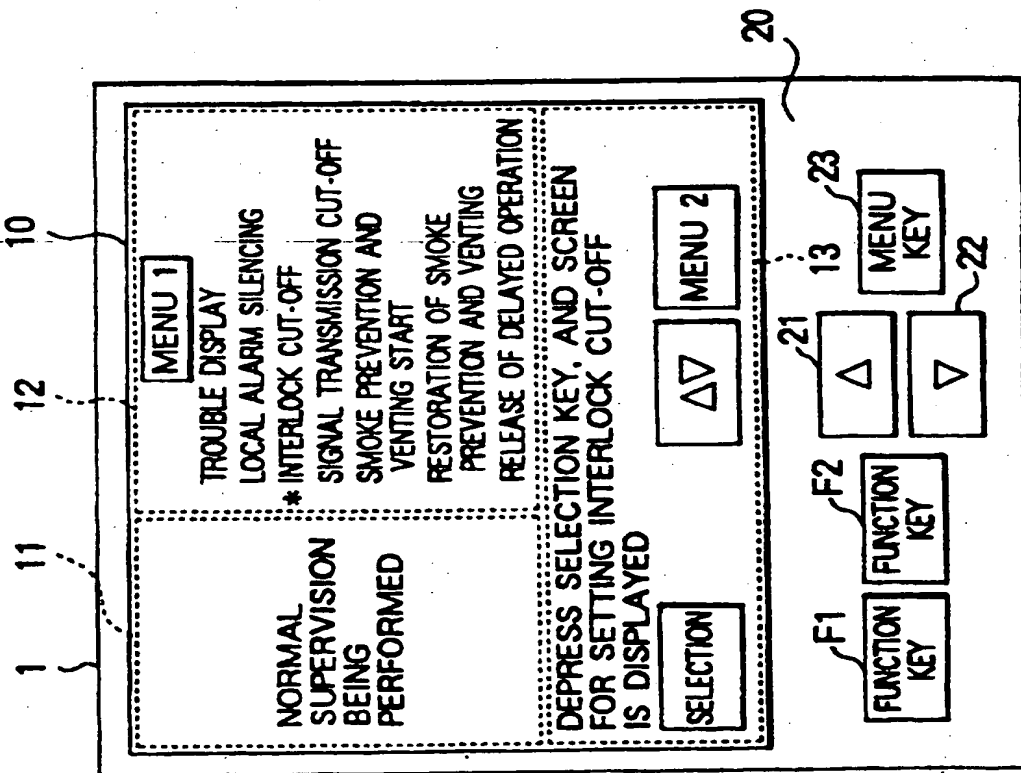


FIG. 4 L

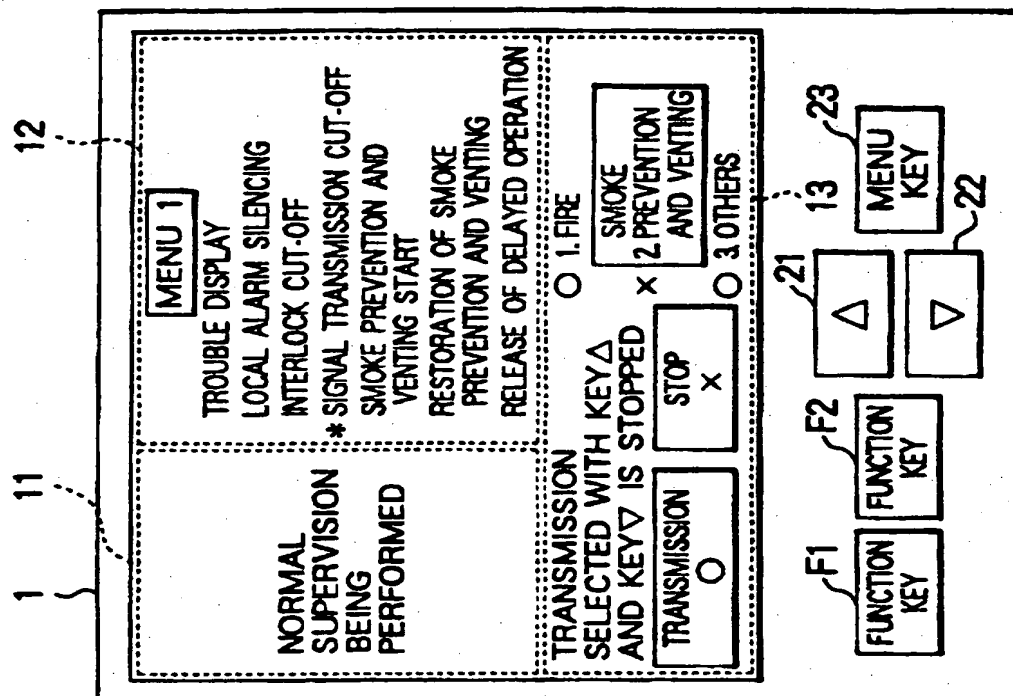


FIG. 4 K

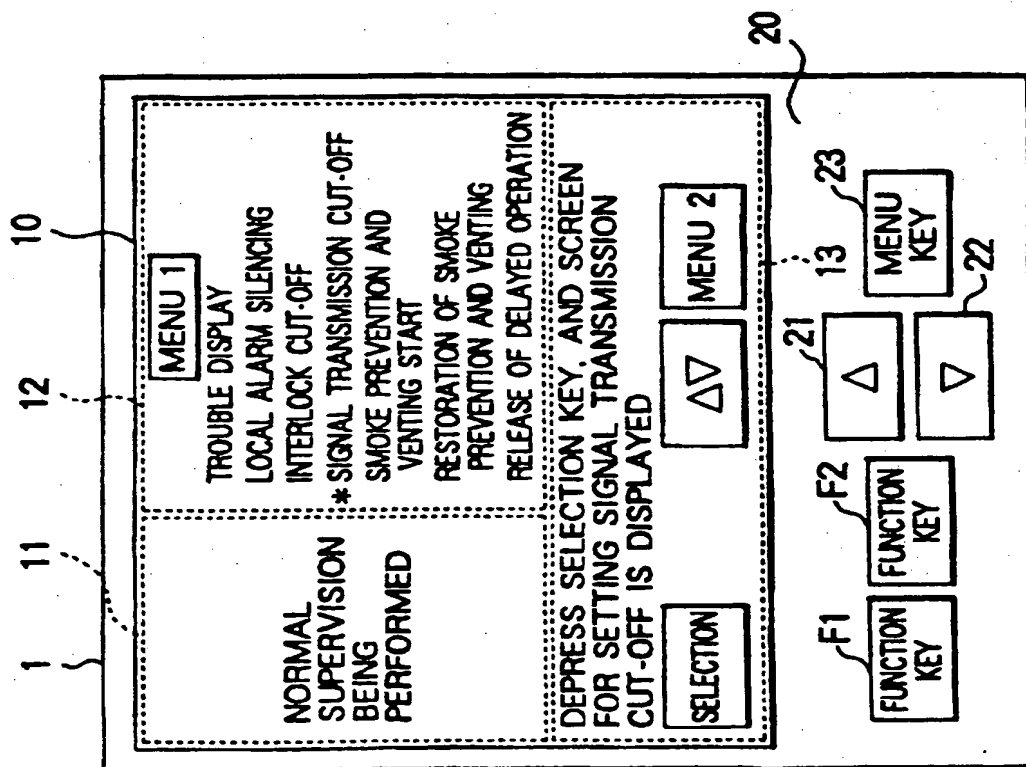


FIG. 5

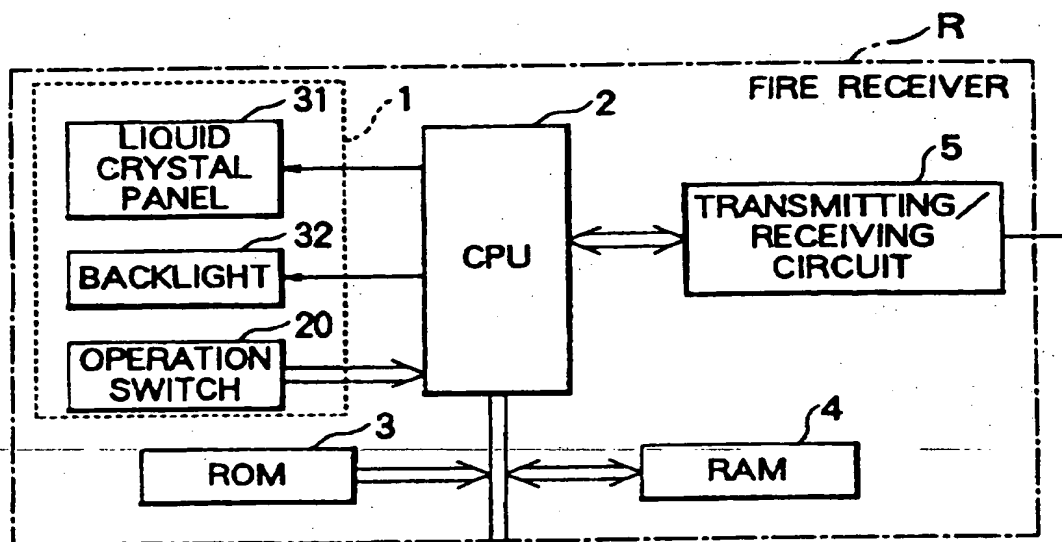


FIG. 6

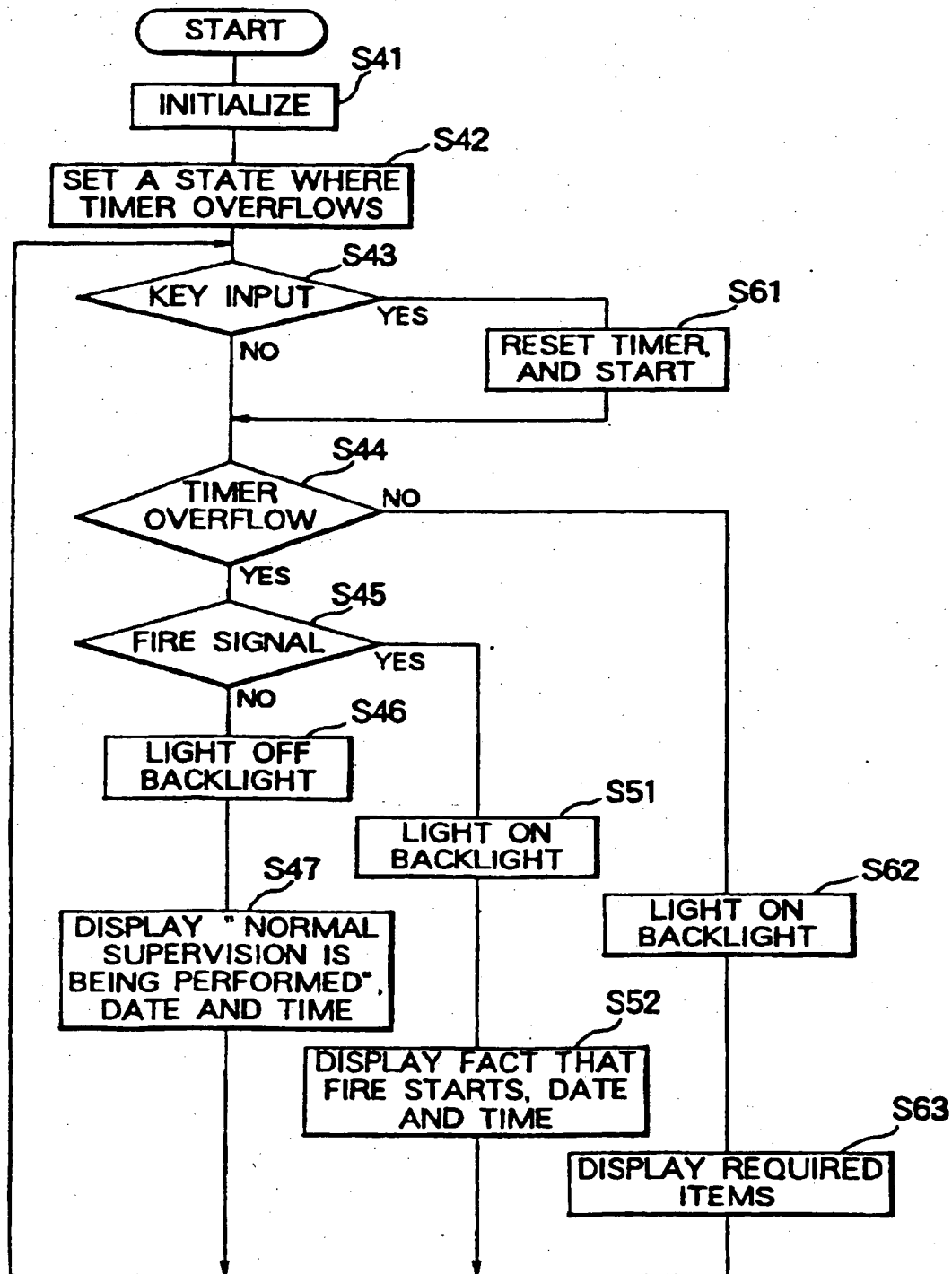


FIG. 7

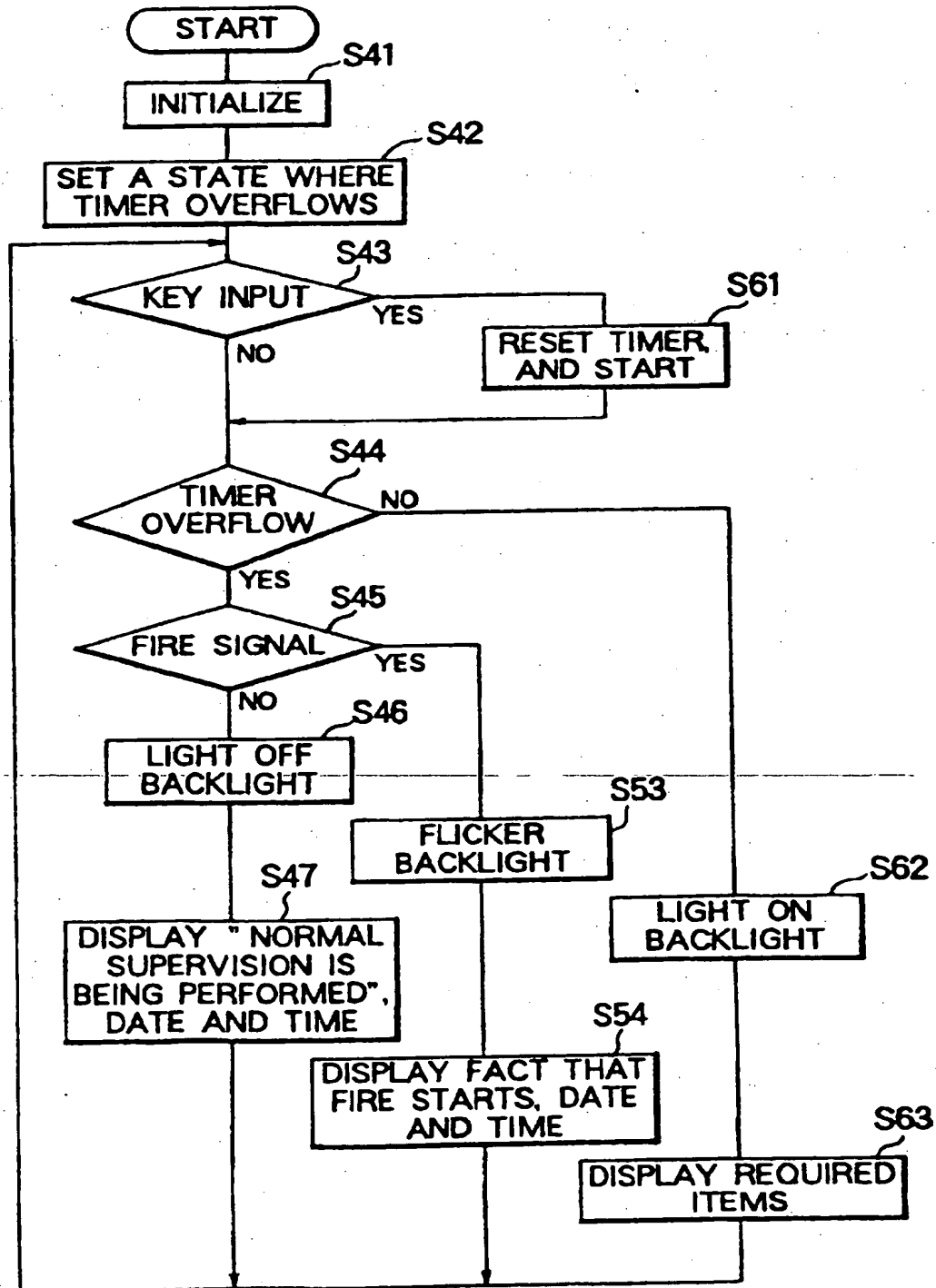


FIG. 8

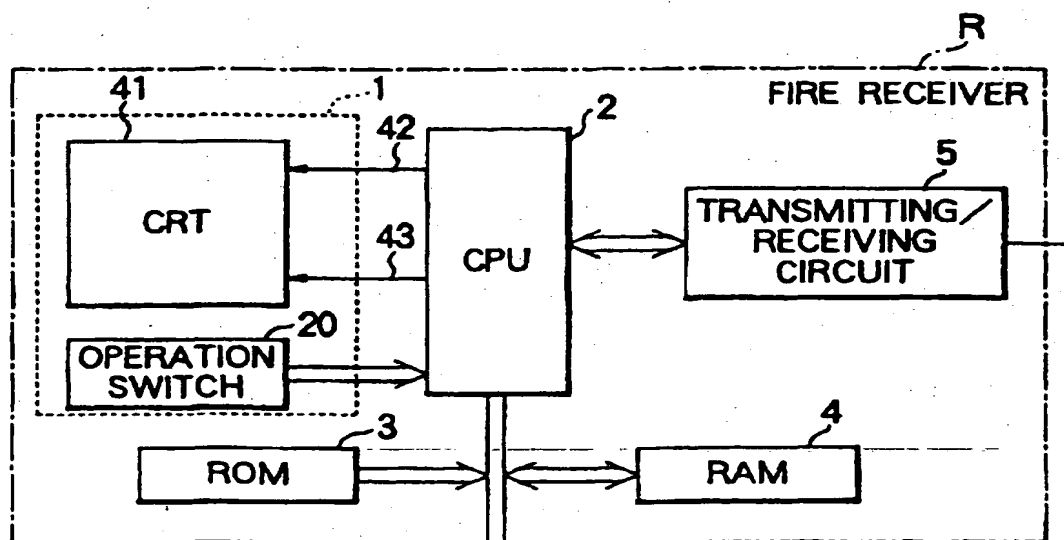


FIG. 9

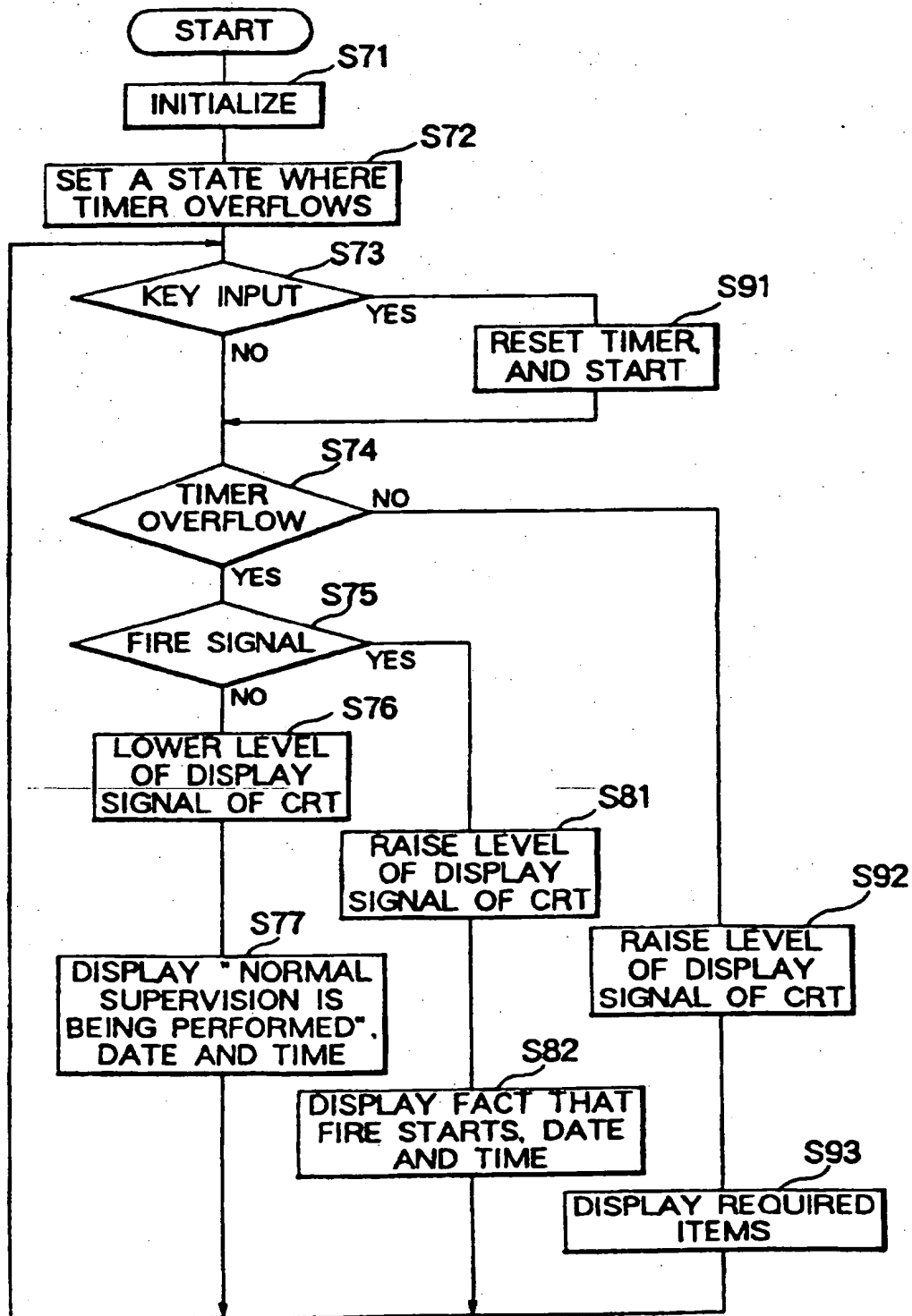


FIG. 10

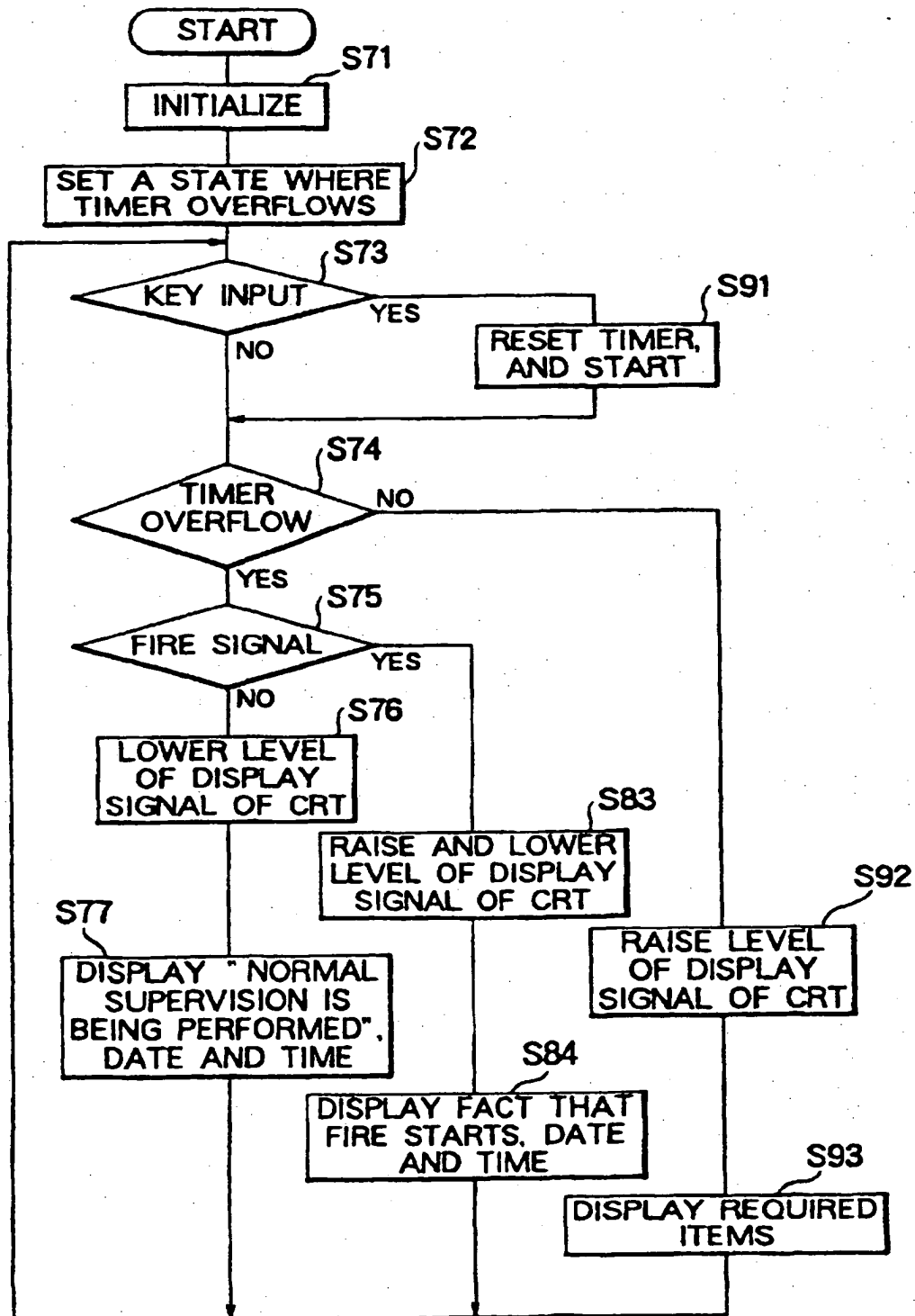


FIG. 11 A

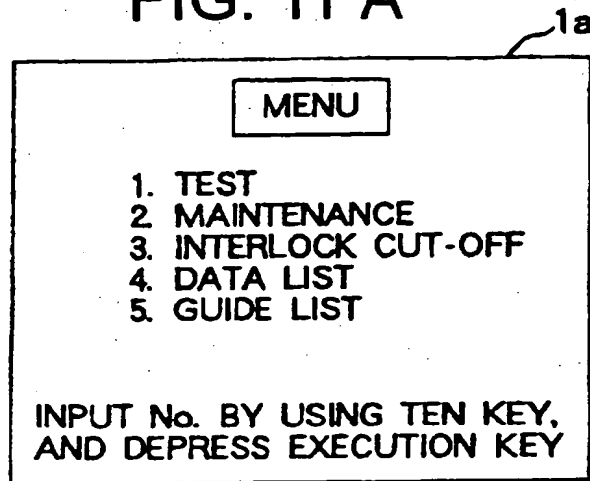


FIG. 11 B

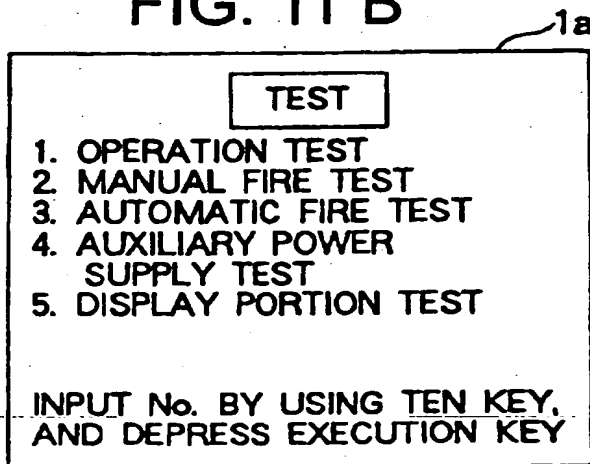


FIG. 11 C

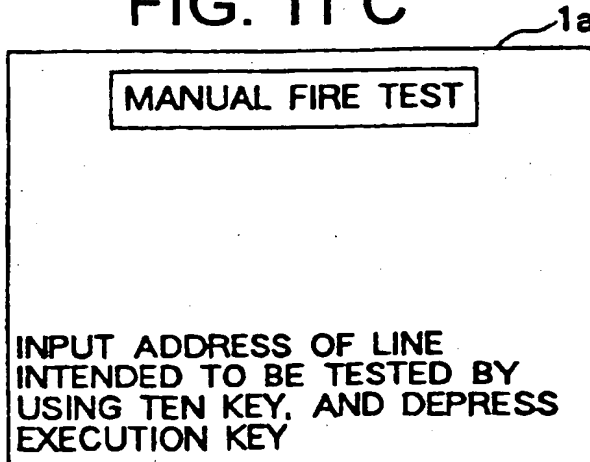


FIG. 11 D

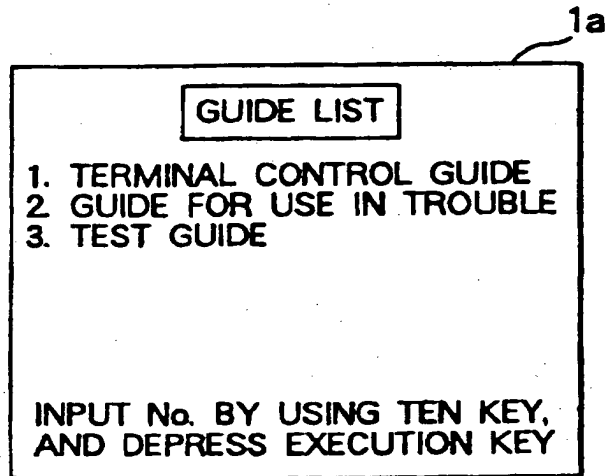
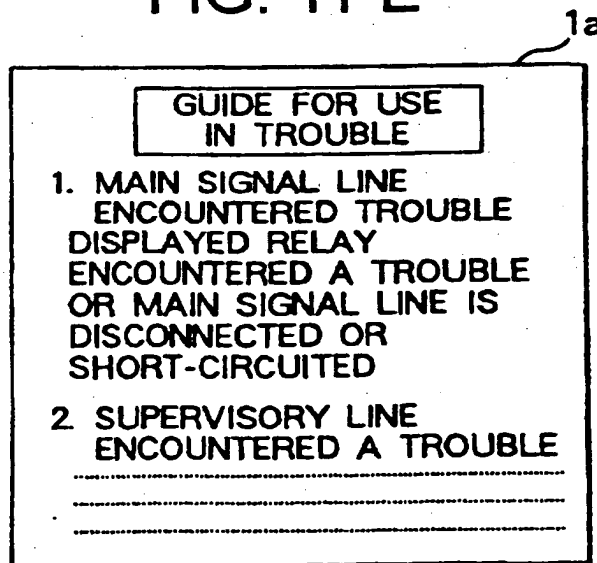
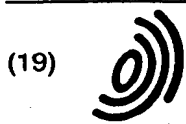


FIG. 11 E





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(11)

EP 0 940 787 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
15.09.1999 Bulletin 1999/37

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: G08B 17/00, G08B 25/14

(43) Date of publication A2:
08.09.1999 Bulletin 1999/36

(21) Application number: 99111222.8

(22) Date of filing: 14.03.1994

(84) Designated Contracting States:
CH DE FR GB LI NL

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(30) Priority: 25.03.1993 JP 9093893
30.03.1993 JP 9709893

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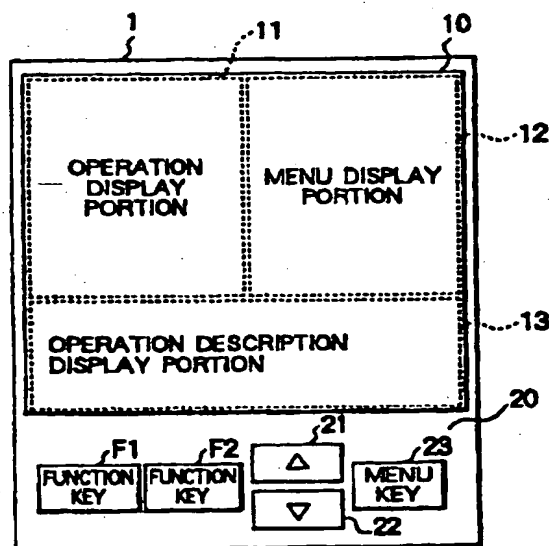
(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
94103864.8 / 0 617 390

(74) Representative: Held, Thomas
Klopstockstrasse 63
70193 Stuttgart (DE)

(54) Fire receiver

(57) A fire receiver including: a CPU, an operation selection switch for selecting a desired operation from a plurality of operations that can be executed; an address selection switch for selecting a desired address from different addresses respectively given to a plurality of fire detectors and lines; and display means connected to the CPU and comprising an operation display portion, a menu display portion, and an operation description display portion.

FIG. 2





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 11 1222

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.8)
Y	US 5 189 394 A (R. WALTER ET AL) 23 February 1993 (1993-02-23) * column 3, line 30 - column 7, line 17; figure 1 *	1	G08B17/00 G08B25/14
Y	HANS-J. MOSCH: "Dateisysteme RUBIN für Gefahrenmeldeanlagen" TELENORMA NACHRICHTEN SICHERHEITSSYSTEME, no. 97/S, 1993, pages 11-16, XP000385620 FRANKFURT/MAIN DE * page 14, middle column - page 15, middle column; figures 4,5 *	1	
Y	US 4 992 866 A (J. B. MORGAN) 12 February 1991 (1991-02-12) * column 2, line 51 - column 6, line 9; figures 1,2 *	1	
A,P	EP 0 559 270 A (N. V. PHILIPS GLOEILAMPENFABRIEKEN) 8 September 1993 (1993-09-08) * claim 1 *		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.8)
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A	US 4 375 637 A (P. A. DESJARDINS) 1 March 1983 (1983-03-01) * abstract; figure 3 *		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
BERLIN		15 July 1999	Breusing, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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